

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION

September 13, 2017

8:00PM

CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE

Council President Lovenduski called the meeting to order and led the Salute to the Flag.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was sent to Trenton Times for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board; placed on the web-site on January 5, 2017. Notice was advertised in the Burlington Co. Times on January 8, 2017.

ROLL CALL

Present: Paul Ostrander, Jerry Sandusky, Dave Woolston, Ted Lovenduski

Absent: Frank Baldorossi

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Attorney; Nancy Erlston, Township Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public.

Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to close the public comments.

BUSINESS

Township Water & Sewer Engineer

Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- **Chestnut Street Drainage Improvement – Montana Construction
Change Order No. 1 and Final Payment Request No. 1**

Assistant Administrator Sahol said the change order and final payment are for the Chestnut Street drainage project. Township Engineer James Biegen is recommending it be approved. All of the work is completed including the restoration. There were some outstanding items that were there last week but they have been completed. It has been topsoiled and seeded. The system is functioning exactly as designed. The additional work was some additional pipe that needed to be lined. A stub of a stormline was added in case in the future the township or county needs to exercise some additional drainage along Front Street. It will be there and it can be accommodated

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in the system that was constructed. The township would not have to go into the bank of the river at any point in the future. Everything is in order, as Engineer Biegen has indicated.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

- **Land Conveyance to the Township**

Township resident, Al Garcia, would like to convey some additional lands to the municipality so there is an easement on the corner of Winter Street and Riverview Avenue. It is a very tight corner. The easement area was developed in the plan as part of the Road Program, out of need. Some of the larger trucks such as delivery and waste trucks, have a hard maneuvering. Bringing the corner a bit on his property is a very good suggestion. In the future the township will need to legalize the acceptance of the property with an ordinance. Councilman Sandusky asked if Mr. Garcia was going to have to change his deed. Assistant Administrator Sahol said the easement would be recorded but a change to the deed would not be necessary. Councilman Sandusky asked if there would be any cost to Mr. Garcia. Assistant Administrator Sahol said there would not be.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said regarding the work going on in that area, it is moving along nicely. The contractor did accidentally blow the grade on some curb on the back of some of Laurel Avenue. There was about 50 to 60 feet of curb installed, unfortunately it was set at the same elevation as the bottom of the handicapped ramp instead of at the rise of the handicapped ramp. The curb was removed today and was reformed and they are getting ready to re-pour it. If all goes well, they hope to get some milling started by the end of the week. He doesn't believe they will make that, but he thinks by the end of next week that road will be milled and paved completely. All that remains is the 1000 block of West Fifth Street and a small part of Alden Avenue where parking will be created along the fence.

Council President Lovenduski said the residents have asked if they could be notified if the alley at Riverview Avenue is going to be closed for the weekend. It was last weekend and they weren't notified. Assistant Administrator Sahol said it was closed because the curbs were formed. He didn't learn about that until it was too late. He doesn't believe it will be closed this weekend but he will verify and if necessary will let the residents know.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said the township was successful with their earlier conversations with Public Service Electric & Gas. The township will marry all of PSE&G's work that is taking place with the township's future Road Program. PSE&G will repave all of the roads that have moratoriums. The township was more concerned about the safe and effective delivery of the gas service and allowed PSE&G to do the work. PSE&G will also be doing some of the intersections they had to cut into. It was unfortunately unknown to them until the project was further along. Originally PSE&G was going to half pave the roads and the township would do the other half as part of the Road Program. They are proposing getting out of the township more quickly and doing a certain amount of whole roads at a later date that the township would choose rather than having to do half roads. The positives are less disruption to the residents. There would be a better match line and it is better to do a whole road instead of half. They would be out of the community a lot of faster, the Road Program decisions would be those of the township and there wouldn't need to be any modifications to any approvals. He wanted to see if that was a route the township would want to take. He and Engineer Biegen would report on what would be the most favorable roads. PSE&G

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believes if this route taken they could be wrapped up and out of the township by Halloween. That is a tremendous benefit. Councilman Woolston asked about the patching PSE&G would do. Assistant Administrator Sahol said the patches are quality. It is better than some of the roads before they were repaired under the various Road Programs. There is no real disadvantage. Councilman Woolston asked about Front Street and it being a county road. Assistant Administrator that is all the county and they are requiring a much higher detail. It is not something the township will need to deal with.

Mayor Wilkie asked about the sidewalk on Route 130 in front of Investor's Bank. Assistant Administrator Sahol said the sidewalk there is just about done. They should be starting on the Hornberger Avenue sidewalk this week.

Mayor Wilkie said he spoke to Assistant Administrator Sahol regarding the Cedar Lane sidewalk. That work can't start until 8:00 a.m. so it won't interfere with the morning school traffic. The high school is in session by 7:30 a.m. but it is a safety issue. Assistant Administrator Sahol said that would be included in the pre-construction discussions.

Councilman Woolston said regarding the sidewalk in front of Investor's Bank, there were two poles poured into the sidewalk. Assistant Administrator Sahol said there is very limited state right-of-way there. There was no way to go behind the pole with the four feet of passage that is required without going into private property. It was boxed out with expansion material so it wouldn't take out the sidewalk if something happened.

Township Administrator

- **Water & Sewer Connection Fees**

Administrator Brook said he provided a Water & Sewer Connection Report prepared by the Township Auditor. The township does this on a regular basis to ensure that the connection fees the municipality charges are kept current. A memo dated September 7, 2017 shows the current connection fees for a residential unit are \$4,683.00. The Auditor looks at a couple different items within the formula. One of them is the Debt Service, also considered is the actual use, the number of units and the amount of water that is used on a residential basis and commercial basis. The proposed fee would drop to \$4,655.00. An ordinance will be prepared for the first meeting in October. This is a positive for the residents and any new water connections that come into the community.

- **Best Practices Checklist**

Administrator Brook distributed the Best Practices Checklist to the Mayor and Council. There was an article in the Burlington County Times about this. All municipalities are required to submit the checklist every year to the State. If a certain minimum criteria is met the municipality can retain one hundred percent of the funds that come from the State of New Jersey. The municipality is required to present the checklist every year. He believes the overall rating will be twenty-one out of twenty-five. There used to be about eighty questions then it began to lessen. Over the past couple of years it has gotten more compressed. Now it is down to twenty-five questions and the township needs to meet a minimum of twenty-one in order to get one hundred percent of the funds from the State. He reviewed the Best Practices Checklist with Mayor and Council. He is comfortable that

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the township will be okay for this year. He explained that there are less questions now but more pressure. It gets more and more difficult to qualify for funding.

- **Amazon Sound Study**

Administrator Brook said about a week ago Mayor and Council received a copy of the latest updated sound study. He thinks it would be a good idea to see if there is another firm available to do a second independent study. It would depend on the cost and the efficiency. He would like to make sure the information the township is receiving matches what an independent study would provide. There have been a couple calls, but nothing overwhelming but he thinks it would be a good idea to get a second study. Under the Planning Board approval, if the township finds that there are issues with noise not complying to the state requirements the developer would be required to install a sound wall. It would be an extra level of precaution for the township. All were in agreement to research conducting an independent study.

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie said the signs honoring Mathias Cross are done. One is going to be given to the legion and they will be having a dedication on Veteran's Day after the service at the Municipal Building. There is another to be posted somewhere in town. Signs used to be posted at the bend in the river but the county discontinued that because they felt it took drivers attention away from the road. He suggested at the wharf. It will be displayed for about a year and then it will be given to the high school. There is also a sign for the family.

Mayor Wilkie said he reviewed the 2018 meeting calendar. He would like to remove the March 7, 2018 council meeting since the governing body will be attending a training session on March 28, 2018. He would like to also remove the June 6, 2018 council meeting from the schedule.

Mayor Wilkie said there was a letter regarding farmland preservation locations. The township receives it every year. It goes back a number of years. The county used to do what they wanted to, but the municipalities asked for more input. Now the county requests recommendations. The only new addition is the Von Thaden property. The family did not object to it being included. That is the only difference from what was on the list previously. It does not mean the township is acquiring the property. A couple years ago the township tried to add the Carty Farm to the list but the county rejected it because the soils are not suitable for on-site septic so they don't feel it is a threat for development. There was another location on Burlington-Columbus Road that is a wooded area that was rejected also because it was not likely that it would be developed.

There were two proclamations this evening. One is recognizing Constitution Week, September 17-23. He read the proclamation into the record.

The second is for next week's meeting. There was a young man who won the high jump at the Central Jersey Championship. He has been invited to the meeting next week. He is at Stockton right now and his mother will be bringing him so the township can recognize him. He checked with the school district and they aren't planning to do anything because there are certain things they have to get done by October. The township has traditionally recognized similar achievements.

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Mayor Wilkie said there are a couple activities this weekend. Florence High School has a home football game. The high school students are collecting food for the local food pantries. It is being done as part of the day of service. They encourage anyone to bring non-perishables to the game.

On Saturday is the car show at St. Stephen's on West Second Street from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Florence Historical Society will be hosting its Open House in the firehouse on West Third Street from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He encouraged everyone to attend these successful events.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Lovenduski opened the meeting to the public.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, wanted to thank Administrator Brook and Assistant Administrator Sahol for their efforts this evening. He said they know what he is referring to.

It was the Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to close the public comment. All ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

8:32 PM MOTION of Woolston and seconded by Ostrander to adjourn to closed session. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston
Township Clerk
/aek